

Special PLACES

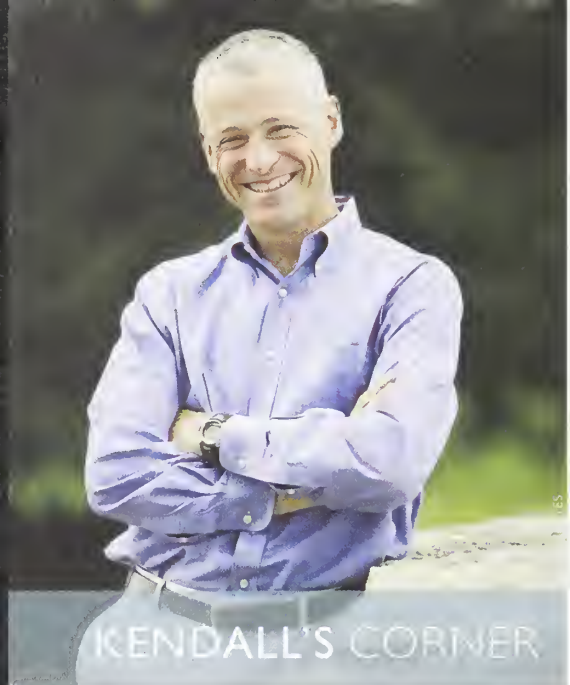
FOR MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE TRUSTEES OF RESERVATIONS

WINTER 2005 VOLUME 13 NO. 4

Look Who's Here

THE YEAR IN REVIEW





Few people will ever know the area now called the Highlands – the 38 rural towns between the Connecticut River and the Housatonic – as well as William Cullen Bryant. Born in Cummington in 1794, the celebrated poet walked 15 miles a day, year-round, well into his 80s. His close observations on the seasons live on in some of America's most well-loved verse.

Today, the hills around Bryant's boyhood home are largely unchanged, but maintaining the character of many Massachusetts towns is an increasing challenge. The fabric of many rural communities is unraveling through seemingly unrelated, everyday decisions: the sale of a farm for development, the channeling of a stream to contain flooding, or the widening of a rural road.

This fall's conference of the Highland Communities Initiative, "Lessons from Our Neighbors," offered inspiration and practical advice on protecting the countryside. Among the many excellent presenters, land use attorney Alexandra Dawson (SEE "SAVING COUNTRY ROADS" ON PAGE 20) showed how a pilot program of the Massachusetts Highway Department could have a far-reaching impact on the character of rural towns. While the big environmental battles often garner the most attention, she urged the audience to remain vigilant against the small incursions, for one by one they can add up to the same thing: the loss of the whole, forever.

At The Trustees, vigilance is part and parcel of caring for special places, whether rural, suburban or urban. As our capital campaign draws to a close we have begun to shape an ambitious conservation vision for the next 20 years that we hope will mobilize people across Massachusetts to help preserve the distinct character of all our communities.

The celebrated author and Harvard economist John Kenneth Galbraith once remarked, "The preservation movement has one great curiosity. There is never retrospective controversy or regret. Preservationists are the only people in the world who are invariably confirmed in their wisdom after the fact."

In the months ahead, we invite you to help define and debate the critical questions that will shape the landscape of Massachusetts for generations to come...so that we can all look back, without regret.

Andy Kendall
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Whether staff or volunteers, in helping preserve landscapes and landmarks in Massachusetts, we are all Trustees. This issue of *Special Places* highlights our collective efforts over the past year. For the full picture, download the 2005 Annual Report from our website, www.thetrustees.org.

ON THE COVER: Can you find this place?

©G.GEROVAC

THE TRUSTEES OF RESERVATIONS

We are over 40,000 people like you who want to protect the places they love or who simply like to be outdoors.

Together with our neighbors, we protect the distinct character of our communities and inspire a commitment to special places across the Commonwealth. Our passion is to share with everyone, the irreplaceable landscapes and landmarks that we care for—as we know how valuable they are to our every day lives.

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Executive Director

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Islands
Regional Director

John Bradley
Director of Membership

Steve McMahon
Western
Regional Director

Tom Foster
Director of
Field Operations

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Regional Director

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Director of
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James Falls, Royalston

©R.CHEEK

Look Who's Here



The Year in Review

A GRAND LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPH CAN TAKE YOUR BREATH away. But frame that same view in a humble snapshot, with a familiar smile in the foreground, and you capture something equally striking: human context, memory, and meaning.

The Trustees of Reservations have always been about connecting people to special places, and that has never been more true or more important than today. Over the last 20 years, our membership has grown almost tenfold. Does that mean there are ten times as many people walking our trails, visiting our historic houses, enjoying our unspoiled views? Not exactly (though it can feel that way at Crane Beach on certain steamy Saturdays). What it really means is that more and more people are finding their place with The Trustees, and feeling they want to do their part and belong.

Some people appreciate our reservations mainly as places to play, explore and exert themselves. Some value The Trustees for all we do to help preserve the quality of life in their communities.

Still others are simply grateful for our success in preserving our shared history and precious landscapes.

On the following pages you will find highlights from our *2005 Annual Report* – exciting land conservation efforts from across the state, and profiles of people who support The Trustees with remarkably generous contributions of skill, insight, time, money, land, and love. You'll see that in age, background, geography, and experience, they are all very different. But in saving the irreplaceable glories of history and nature in Massachusetts, they – and we – are all Trustees.

To inspire and prepare the next generation of our supporters – the caretakers of Massachusetts for generations to come – The Trustees are pursuing ambitious new efforts in outreach and education. But in the end, our most persuasive advocates are members like you; no one can speak more passionately about the value of our landscapes and landmarks. We hope you will join us in enlarging the grand family of The Trustees.



Trustees' Land Conservation Specialist and 2004
Employee of the Year, Anthony Cucchi, age 36,
enjoying preserved views along the Westport River.

As a general rule, when people invite you to supper, it's best to avoid having your dog slay one of their heritage chickens right on the front lawn.

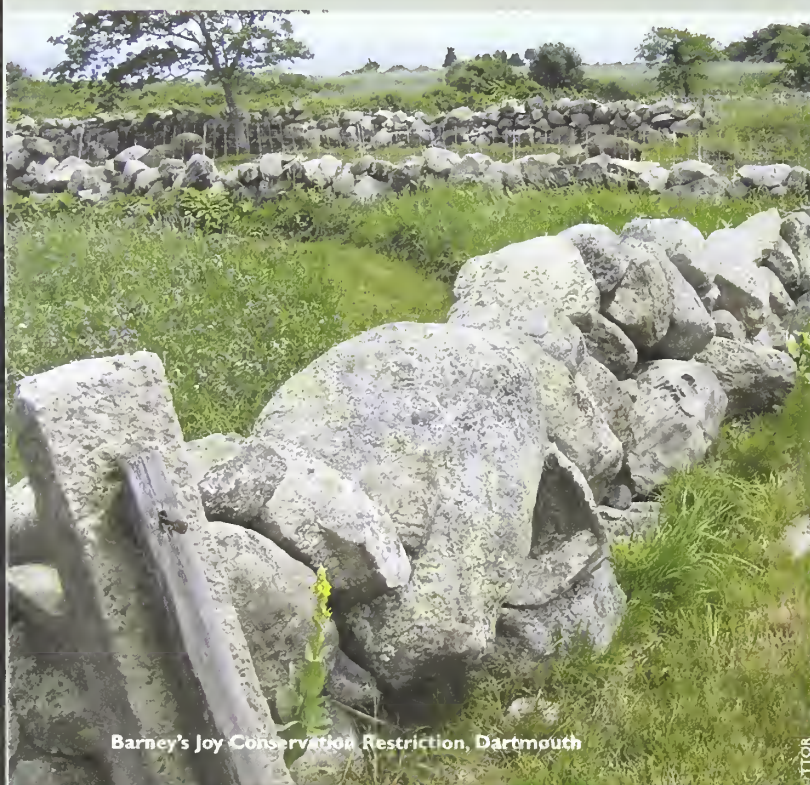
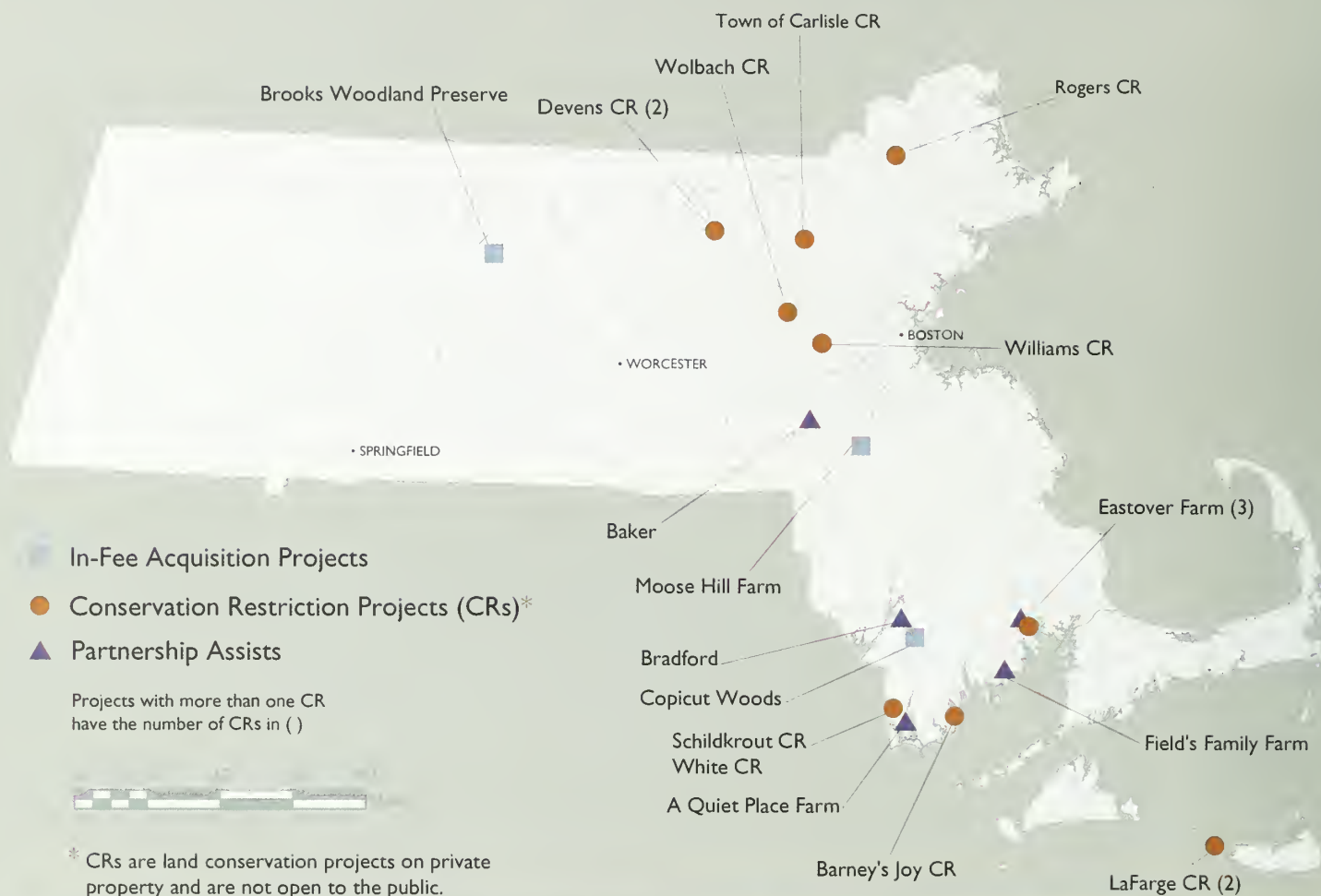
This goes double if the people are serious supporters of local land conservation and you head up the regional office of The Trustees.

So it demonstrates the deep respect and affection people in Westport feel for Land Protection Specialist Anthony Cucchi, that the, um, connection between his dog, Boo, and a certain unfortunate hen has not put a crimp in a new campaign to save 2,000 acres of the Westport landscape over the next several years. Westport's resources are a mix of farmland – the largest concentration of dairy farms in Massachusetts, and one of the last farming

communities along the coast – and shorefront properties that hug the serene tidal banks of the Westport River. Recognizing the value of that landscape, in the 1970s residents formed the Westport Land Conservation Trust (WLCT). In 1990, they established a close though informal partnership with The Trustees and in 1995, with support from a generous local donor, we opened a storefront office right in Westport, with a staff member – our own Anthony Cucchi – dedicated to the town.

With a degree from the Yale School of Forestry, Anthony paired superb technical knowledge with a passion for hands-on environmental protection. With his assistance, the symbiotic WLCT/Trustees relationship has driven tremendous progress all over town, inspiring substantial financial gifts and dozens of conservation restrictions. And thanks to a membership drive, Trustees membership in town has shot up from 12 to more than 700 – not bad considering Westport doesn't even include a Trustees reservation. As Anthony explains, "People know that preserving this landscape is a now-or-never proposition. With the Westport office, we just helped release the latent conservation spirit in town by giving them a focused way to take action."

2005 Land Conservation Projects Across Massachusetts





Terry & Poo White are determined to make conservation a town-wide initiative in Westport.

As Mark Twain observed, few things are harder to put up with than the annoyance of a good example.

So when Terry and Poo (Benjamin and Elizabeth) White bought their property from Llewellyn “Louie” Howland in 1982, they could have been forgiven for resisting his friendly campaign to have them protect their river frontage with a conservation restriction (CR) – the kind he had placed on his own land right next door.

Instead, the Whites not only decided to follow Louie’s example, but eventually became leaders in Westport’s overall land conservation movement. Today, as President of the Westport Land Conservation Trust (WLCT), Terry describes Louie as having been, before his death in 2004, “a superb neighbor, and an inspiration,” not just to the Whites, but to the whole Westport conservation community. With a graceful slope down to the Westport River, both the White and Howland properties add

immeasurably to the unspoiled experience of the shore – and thanks to their CRs, they always will.

Terry and Poo’s first step was to place the front 15 acres of their property under a CR held jointly by the WLCT and The Trustees. WLCT quickly persuaded Terry to join the Board and for the last five years he has served as President. More recently, the Whites extended the protection of their property to include the remaining 66 acres.

As a practicing lawyer in Providence, Terry isn’t able to lead the local conservation effort on the ground day by day; but as Terry explains, the WLCT “is determined to make conservation a town-wide initiative – as opposed to a few enclaves preserving their own niche.” Current projects span the town from north to south, and starting this summer, the WLCT is holding an annual barn dance – not a fundraiser, but a “friend-raiser,” to build support all over town.

“Everyone is aware of the urgency, and they appreciate that the very openness that makes the landscape lovely makes it vulnerable,” Terry explains. “There’s the realization that in terms of development, things are happening fast. There’s only so much we can do – and we need to do so now.”

We can't do it alone *(and it's more fun not to).*

27,771 volunteer hours

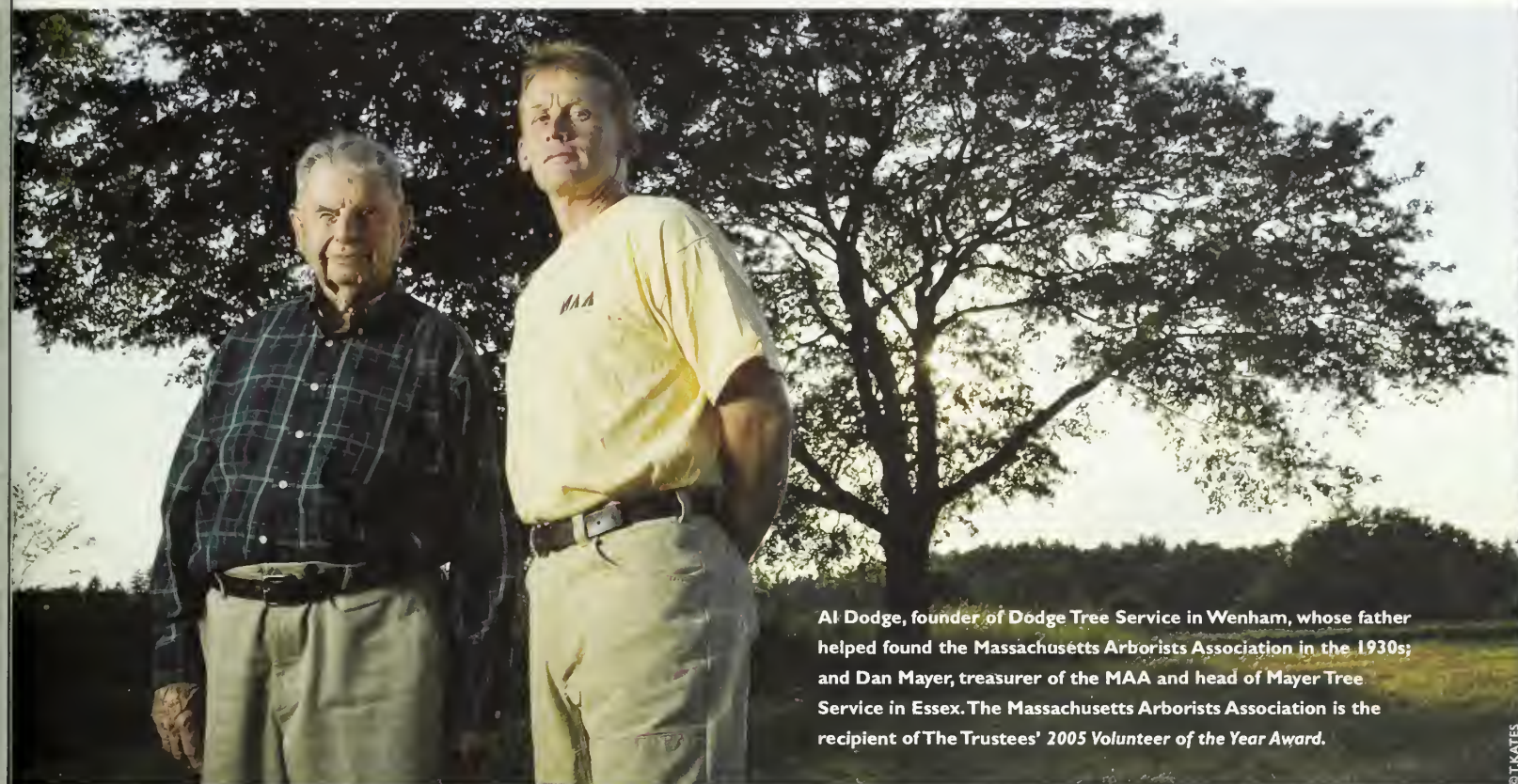
Each year, The Trustees welcome nearly a million visitors, a remarkable achievement which cannot be done by staff alone. From building fences to monitoring streams, from leading a walk to leading a property committee, we celebrate the enthusiasm, vision, and dedication of our friends, neighbors and allies.

BELOW LEFT: Ellen and Abby Park scrub water buckets during their weekly visits to Weir River Farm in Hingham.

ABOVE RIGHT: Members of the Massachusetts Arborists Association at this year's Arbor Day Celebration at World's End in Hingham.

BELOW RIGHT: Members of Trout Unlimited log dozens of hours at the Lyman Reserve each year, maintaining trails, picking up debris, and monitoring streams.





Al Dodge, founder of Dodge Tree Service in Wenham, whose father helped found the Massachusetts Arborists Association in the 1930s; and Dan Mayer, treasurer of the MAA and head of Mayer Tree Service in Essex. The Massachusetts Arborists Association is the recipient of The Trustees' 2005 Volunteer of the Year Award.

The chance to spend a whole Saturday working like crazy in a spray of sawdust and trying out other people's cool new heavy equipment and pruning

200-year-old trees and eating too much barbeque with 200 other guys who like to do exactly the same thing – really, what could be more fun than that? The barbeque part is important. According to Dan Mayer, treasurer of the Massachusetts Arborists Association (MAA) and head of Mayer Tree Service in Essex, the Arborists' motto might as well be “Will Work for Food.” But the affection and respect they feel for each other and for the landscape are what really inspires them – and that is very good news for The Trustees, who for two years running have been the lucky

recipients of the Arborists' annual Arbor Day Celebration. Last year, for their 25th event, the MAA chose Appleton Farms in Ipswich. This year's challenge: World's End in Hingham. For The Trustees, the result is nearly \$400,000 of free cutting, pruning, fertilizing and planting, done in a single day by the best in the business. For the Arborists, of course, it's that irresistible mix of class reunion, truck show, and the hardest work you've ever done in your life. Plus great food.

The MAA is one of the oldest trade associations in the country. Its membership includes over 850 of the state's leading arborists. Needless to say, the competition for the annual Arbor Day workfest is tremendous. Past sites have included Walden Pond, the Esplanade in Boston, and the Stone Zoo. In theory, any tree-rich public or non-profit site could qualify, but in practice, as Dan explains, “a site has to lend itself to the amount of equipment we bring: cranes, tree spades, chippers, stump grinders, log trucks. It's a lot.” The arborists love working the big Trustees reservations, because of what isn't there: no hapless pedestrians [the property is closed for the day], no badly parked cars, no traffic, no gas or electric lines, few houses. Adds Dan, “It's just a really great environment to work in.”

Betsy and Ralph Gordon of Norwell are recipients of The Trustees' 2005 Volunteer of the Year Award.



In her time, Betsy Gordon has organized hundreds of volunteers. She has raised many thousands of dollars. She has even – heaven help

her – served on her local school committee. Ergo, on the subject of human nature, Betsy Gordon is not easy to surprise. But when she tried raising money for the boardwalk that rims Gordon Pond at the Norris Reservation, surprised she was. Surprised at the instantaneous community response, at the sheer sign-me-up enthusiasm and openhanded generosity she encountered all over town.

It's the latest event in a long, lovely chain reaction that has protected and enhanced an incredible resource: more than 129 woodland acres smack in the center of Norwell, bordering the scenic North River, navigated by quiet trails (equally engaging by foot or by ski), and embracing a sweet, beaver-dotted pond.

The first spark in the chain reaction came in 1970, when longtime resident Eleanor Norris gave The Trustees 101 acres she and her late husband, Albert, had owned for decades: The Norris Reservation was born. Over the years, it grew, first with a gift from the McMullen family of 16 contiguous acres, and then, in 2000 with 12 acres more – a gift from Betsy and her husband, Ralph.

As part of their gift, Ralph and Betsy spearheaded a fund drive to build a boardwalk for the pond's western shore. By combining Betsy's inside knowledge of the Norwell community and her organizing know-how with logistical support from The Trustees, they conducted a mailing and phone bank campaign that reached nearly 1,000 people. With a challenge grant from the Fields Pond Foundation, in a matter of weeks they raised an astonishing \$46,000. A subsequent effort helped double The Trustees' membership in town. In her charmingly straightforward, no-nonsense way, Betsy recalls it as "the easiest volunteer effort I ever organized. Everyone loves the Norris Reservation."

Reaching Today's – and Tomorrow's – Conservationists

It all starts with a sense of place.

With nearly 100 reservations on 25,000 acres from Cape Poge to Sheffield, we offer something for everyone – beaches to roam, hills to climb, attics to explore, places to skip, swim, ski, or simply listen to the wind.

But preserving these places, and the vast landscapes as yet unprotected, will require an engaged and inspired constituency, the combined efforts of neighbors, friends, and allies.

The Trustees' growing education and outreach efforts are designed to engage more people to accelerate the pace of land conservation. In 2004, more than 22,000 people participated in a formal program on a Trustees reservation. In addition, we provided training and professional development for conservation leaders through the Putnam Conservation Institute, and offered a suite of innovative workshops and conferences through the Highland Communities Initiative to further local conservation efforts in rural towns between the Housatonic and Connecticut Rivers.

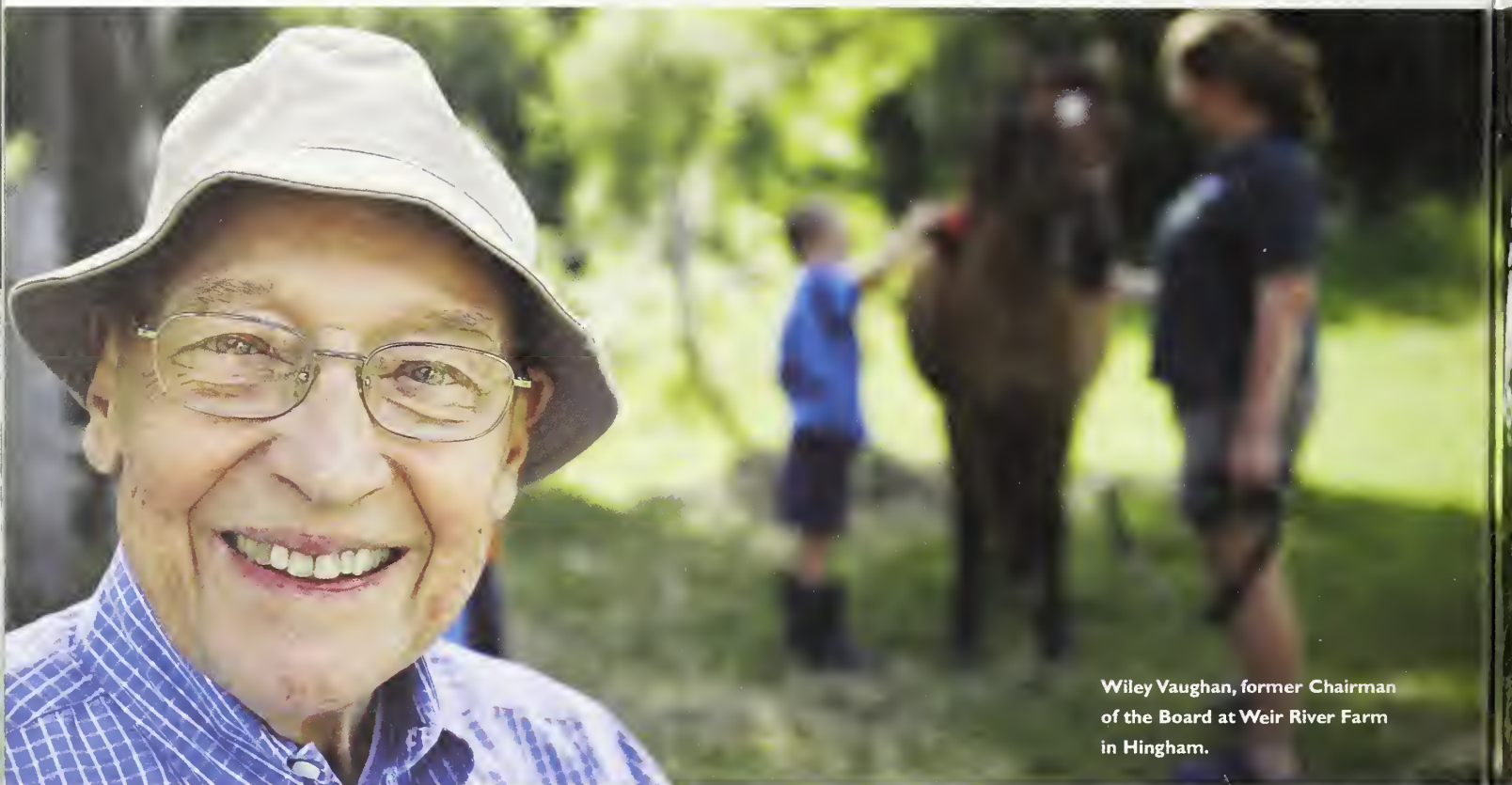


ABOVE RIGHT: The Members' Property Guide helps you find your favorite place.

BELOW LEFT: Youngsters discover wild edibles on an outing at Dinosaur Footprints in Holyoke.

BELOW RIGHT: Breakout sessions during the annual "Managing Land & Visitors" conference at The Doyle Conservation Center in Leominster.





Wiley Vaughan, former Chairman of the Board at Weir River Farm in Hingham.

Officially speaking, The Trustees now have upwards of 40,000 members, but as former Board Chair Wiley Vaughan sees it,

that number doesn't do justice to everyone who really belongs. As Wiley puts it, paraphrasing Edmund Burke, "We are a family of those who are dead, those now living, and those not yet born."

Gracious, self-effacing, naturally conservative, Wiley doesn't look like a man bent on working radical effects upon the future. But with his all-embracing vision of membership, he has become exactly that. Through significant gifts in 2002, he has allowed The Trustees to stride confidently into the exciting but comparatively unfamiliar territory of education. His generosity spurred the hiring of the organization's first-ever Director of Education and Outreach, and helped create inspiring new programs from

Little Tom Mountain in Holyoke to Weir River Farm in Hingham. For Wiley, it was a wonderful way to honor the memory of his late wife, Ann, who cared profoundly about educating young people. (It served a side purpose, too, for a man who served for decades as one of Boston's most prominent real estate lawyers; as Wiley says with a quiet grin, "I had something to do with a lot of the buildings that make up the Boston skyline. Supporting The Trustees is perhaps a way of atoning for the bad ones.")

Ultimately, though, funding the new education initiative was a practical way to ensure the future success of the organization. "Andy [Kendall] has a vision that's very challenging," says Wiley. "It greatly increases the scope of our activities. And the next 10 years will be critical, because two million acres in Massachusetts is already developed or preserved. Three million acres are still up for disposition, and Andy believes half of that should be dedicated to conservation." Plainly, realizing such an ambitious vision isn't something The Trustees can do alone. As Wiley explains, "The changing of the guard is inevitable – we simply have to train our own caretakers for the future."



Cesar Gomez and Dialis Santiago
members of the Boys & Girls Club
of Greater Holyoke.

At 14, Cesar Gomez is an enthusiastic woodsman, an adept animal tracker, a paleontology buff, and a burgeoning camper –

not too shabby for a kid who had never been into the woods until this year. Three years ago, he joined the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Holyoke and this year he dove headlong into the nature program, based at Mt. Tom and jointly run with The Trustees. Nine-year old Dialis Santiago has lived in Holyoke her whole life, and belonged to the Boys & Girls Club for nearly half of it.

What was it like to go on your first trip with The Trustees?

CESAR: I was psyched because I noticed stuff I had never seen before, like that milkweed seed pod. DIALIS: FUN! I'd never been in the woods before. I liked making sound maps, eating blackberries, and finding the mitten tree [sassafras].

Anything that surprised or amazed you? CESAR: When we went to Dino Footprints [Dinosaur Footprints Reservation] I saw evidence, that I could touch, that the dinosaurs had been here. It made me want to learn more, like I feel like I don't want to leave because there is more to learn. DIALIS: There used to be volcanoes here, and we learned what happened to them.

What did you see and like best? CESAR: When we went to Mt. Tom, I remember following the bird tracks in the snow and how when the bird takes off, the tracks disappear! DIALIS: I saw a turkey vulture and a red-tailed hawk and my favorite flowers are the yellow ones with the brown center [Black-eyed Susans].

How do you feel about the woods now? CESAR: At first I didn't know what to expect, like anything can come out and get me, but next time I went, I knew what I was doing. Now I bring my notebook and write down new things I learn. I know these places and I can go find out more myself. DIALIS: Now I know where Mt. Tom is because I have been up there. When we drive by, my Mom asks me, 'What do you *do* up there?' and I tell her we explore! I want to bring my mom up there to go hiking and tour her around.

Financial Report

APRIL 1, 2004 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2005

Operating Results

IN THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS

| | FY 2005 | FY 2004 | CHANGE | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|-----------|
| Income | | | | |
| Property & Other Revenues | \$ 5,227 | \$ 4,879 | \$ 348 | 7% |
| Operating Support from Endowment | 4,307 | 4,416 | (109) | (2%) |
| Membership | 2,521 | 2,423 | 98 | 4% |
| Contributions | 2,078 | 1,961 | 117 | 6% |
| TOTAL INCOME | <u>\$ 14,133</u> | <u>\$ 13,679</u> | <u>\$ 454</u> | <u>3%</u> |
| Expenses | | | | |
| PROGRAM SERVICES: | | | | |
| Field Operations | 8,926 | 8,710 | 216 | 2% |
| Land Conservation | 983 | 1,143 | (160) | (14%) |
| Resource Stewardship | 1,153 | 950 | 203 | 21% |
| Education | 419 | 228 | 191 | 84% |
| TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES | <u>11,481</u> | <u>11,031</u> | <u>450</u> | <u>4%</u> |
| SUPPORTING SERVICES: | | | | |
| General & Administrative | 1,080 | 1,041 | 39 | 4% |
| Development | 955 | 936 | 19 | 2% |
| Membership | 411 | 406 | 5 | 1% |
| TOTAL SUPPORTING SERVICES | <u>2,446</u> | <u>2,383</u> | <u>63</u> | <u>3%</u> |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | <u>13,927</u> | <u>13,414</u> | <u>513</u> | <u>4%</u> |
| NET SURPLUS FROM OPERATIONS | \$ 206 | \$ 265 | \$ (59) | (22%) |

Utilization of Net Surplus from Operations

IN THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS

| | FY 2005 | FY 2004 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Capital Projects | \$ 200 | \$ 201 |
| Other Strategic Initiatives | 6 | 64 |
| TOTAL UTILIZATION OF NET SURPLUS FROM OPERATIONS | \$ 206 | \$ 265 |

Endowment Market Value

IN THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS

| | FY 2005 | FY 2004 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$ 86,212 | \$ 71,654 |
| Contributions/Other Changes, net | 2,709 | 2,348 |
| Net Unrealized/Realized Gains (Losses) | | |
| Net of Spending Rate Transfer | 542 | 12,210 |
| TOTAL ENDOWMENT | \$ 89,463 | \$ 86,212 |

NOTE: The amounts above reflect all endowment funds (permanent and board-designated) including the Budd Trusts. Copies of the audited financial statements are available upon request.

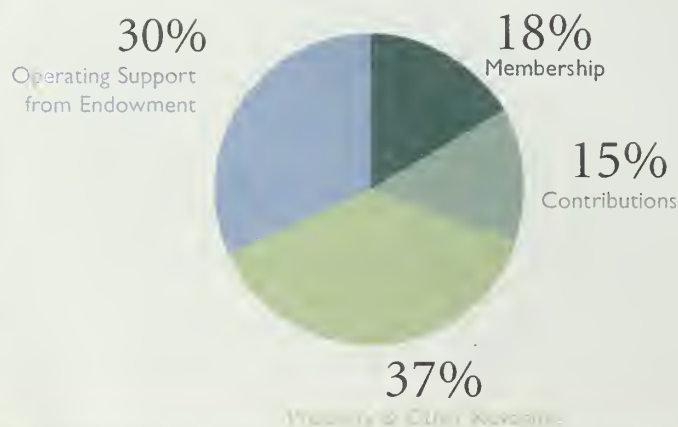
Gift Income

IN THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS

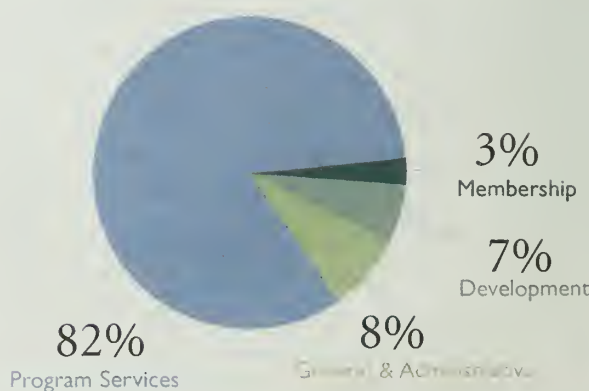
| | FY 2005 | | FY 2004 | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| | Amount | Donors | Amount | Donors |
| Contributions | \$ 2,078 | 5,038 | \$ 1,961 | 5,186 |
| Membership | 2,521 | 39,258 | 2,423 | 38,541 |
| Gifts & Pledges for Special Purposes* | 7,842 | 1,561 | 7,440 | 1,965 |
| TOTAL | \$12,441 | 45,857 | \$11,824 | 45,692 |

* Gifts & Pledges for Special Purposes (endowment, land acquisition, and reservation capital improvement projects) are not reflected in the Financial Report.

FISCAL 2005 INCOME



FISCAL 2005 EXPENSES



WINTER EVENTS!

DECEMBER 2005 THROUGH MARCH 2006

Find more to do online – visit us at www.thetrustees.org

CAPE COD & THE ISLANDS

Walk Series: *Saving Special Places*

Sunday, January 15 | 1–3PM

UP-ISLAND CONSERVATION RESTRICTION

Sunday, February 19 | 1–3PM

SQUIBNOCKET POINT CONSERVATION

RESTRICTION 508.693.7662

The Trustees protect privately held land through conservation restrictions. Here is a special opportunity to tour properties only rarely open to the public. *Pre-registration required, space is limited. Members: FREE. Nonmembers: Adult \$10.*

CENTRAL REGION

Saturday, January 28 | 12NOON–4PM

Peaked Mountain Winter Carnival

PEAKED MOUNTAIN, MILLER FOREST TRACT

978.248.9455

Bring the family for a day of old-fashioned

winter fun. Enjoy ice-skating on Lunden Pond, roasting marshmallows by the fire and guided snowshoeing with local naturalists. *FREE.*

Wednesday, February 1 | 9AM

Camping Reservation Season Opens!

TULLY LAKE CAMPGROUND 978.248.9455

It's never too early to think about vacation! Book early to reserve your favorite campsite for the upcoming season.

Saturday, February 4 | 9:30AM–4:30PM

Putnam Conservation Institute (PCI): Informational Boot Camp for Land Trust Board Members

DOYLE CONSERVATION CENTER, LEOMINSTER

978.840.4446 X1923; PCI@TTOR.ORG

For nonprofit organizations to accomplish their goals, they need effective board members. This workshop, which addresses the important fiduciary and legal responsibilities specific to land trusts, is based on the *Land Trust Alliance's Standards & Practices for Land Trusts*. *Space is limited, pre-registration required. \$35, BYO lunch.*

Thursday, February 2 | 9:30AM–4PM

Putnam Conservation Institute (PCI): Communication and Negotiation Skills for Conservationists

DOYLE CONSERVATION CENTER,

LEOMINSTER 978.840.4446 x1923

PCI@TTOR.ORG

Conserving and caring for land and historic resources is complex work that often requires tact, thoughtfulness, and creativity. This day-long workshop will be led by trainers from the Consensus Building Institute.

Space is limited, pre-registration required. \$35, BYO lunch.



©S.SHEPARD

Sunday, December 11 | 2–4PM

Parlor Songs and Holiday Music at The Old Manse

THE OLD MANSE, CONCORD

978.369.3909

Celebrate the holidays with an intimate concert and sing-along led by composer and music teacher, Katherine Stevens, in the historic parlor of The Old Manse. *Limited seating; reservations and pre-payment required. Members: Adult \$7. Nonmembers: Adult \$14.*

Sunday, February 12 | 6–8PM

Peaked Mountain by Moonlight

PEAKED MOUNTAIN, MONSON 413.532.1631 X13

Experience the snowy magic of field and forest by the light of the full moon on this guided snowshoe tour across the rolling terrain of the Miller Forest Tract. *Snowshoe rentals available at \$8/pair (thanks to Berkshire EMS) or bring your own. Call to rent snowshoes and to pre-register.*



GREATER BOSTON

Saturday, December 10 | 1–4PM

Deck The Halls: Holiday Crafts at The Old Manse

THE OLD MANSE, CONCORD 978.369.3909

Create holiday crafts in the historic setting of The Old Manse. Call for more information, a materials list, and to pre-register. Not recommended for children. Members: Adult \$6.

Nonmembers: Adult \$12.

Wednesday, January 11 | 6–7:30PM

Friday, February 10 | 6–7:30PM

Winter Wonderland by Moonlight

FRANCIS WILLIAM BIRD PARK, EAST WALPOLE

508.668.6136

Explore Bird Park by the light of the moon and see how the animals and plants have adapted to winter. Bring your snowshoes if there's snow! Hot beverages will follow.

Space is limited. Pre-registration is required. FREE.

Saturday, January 21 | 1–4PM

"No-snow" date: January 28

Family Snow Day

THE OLD MANSE, CONCORD 978.369.3909

Snow days aren't just for kids! Celebrate winter at The Old Manse with a family snowshoe race, a snow sculpture competition and, of course, hot cocoa. FREE to all.

Sunday, February 26 | 1–3PM

Weather dependent: Call to confirm

Snowshoe Clinic

FRANCIS WILLIAM BIRD PARK, EAST WALPOLE

508.668.6136

Come float on the snow! Learn all about this fun way to enjoy the special winter landscape at Bird Park. Snowshoes provided through a partnership with Eastern Mountain Sports.

Space is limited. Pre-registration is required.

FREE to all.



Volunteers needed!



THE INN AT CASTLE HILL



ON THE CRANE ESTATE



Slow Food Dinners

THE INN AT CASTLE HILL, IPSWICH 978.412.2555

The Inn at Castle Hill and Slow Food Boston have partnered to bring you monthly dinners prepared by the area's most "Slow" chefs. Four-course prix fixe dinners will feature predominantly local and seasonal ingredients. \$75 per person, plus tax, beverages and service fee. For more information visit WWW.SLOWFOOD.COM

Thursday, January 12

Grill 23

Jay Murray, Executive Chef

Friday, January 27

Mistral

Mark Goldberg, Executive Sous Chef

Thursday, February 2

TBD

Friday, February 24

TBD

Thursday, March 9

Lumiere

Michael Leviton, Executive Chef

Friday, March 17

Blu/Casablanca

Tom Fosnot, Ruth-Anne Adams, Chefs

For chefs, dates and times visit WWW.THEINNATCASTLHILL.COM

NORTHEAST REGION

Sundays, December 4, January 1, February 5, March 5 | 1–3pm

Winter Wildlife Walks

CRANE BEACH, AT THE CRANE ESTATE, IPSWICH

978.356.4351

The beach is only the beginning! A variety of habitats make the Crane Estate an ecological treasure and the perfect place for a winter stroll. Meet at the Inn gate at Castle Hill, parking at barn area. Members: FREE. Nonmembers: \$5 for parking.

Tuesday, December 13 | 3:30–5PM (ages 2–6)

Wednesday, December 14 | 3:30–5PM (ages 2–6)

Children's Holiday Parties with Santa

THE GREAT HOUSE ON CASTLE HILL AT

THE CRANE ESTATE, IPSWICH 978.356.4351

Have some holiday fun with your little one! Benjamin of Moscow Circus will perform a magic and juggling act for the kids and each child will receive a special little gift and refreshments. Bring your camera for pictures with Santa. Members: Parent Accompanying Child FREE, Children \$18. Nonmembers: Parent Accompanying Child FREE, Child \$22.

Sunday, December 11 | 3–5PM

**Holiday Choral Concert:
Mother and Child**

THE GREAT HOUSE ON CASTLE HILL AT
THE CRANE ESTATE, IPSWICH 978.356.4351

Holiday spirit will fill the air when *Contemus*, the North Shore's virtuoso chorus, joins us for a rousing celebration. The 33-voice chamber chorus will perform music from around the world and across the centuries. *Advance ticket purchase is strongly suggested. Members: \$20. Nonmembers: \$25.*

Friday, December 16 | 6–7:30PM

Full Moon Foray

RECOMMENDED FOR FAMILIES

CRANE BEACH, AT THE CRANE ESTATE, IPSWICH
978.356.4351

See the dune trails and beachfront in a new light, moonlight! Meet at Crane Beach gate. *Space is limited, pre-registration required. Members: Adult \$5. Nonmembers: Adult \$10.*

February/March

**Natural History and Great Marsh
Ecology Lecture Series**

THE GREAT HOUSE ON CASTLE HILL AT
THE CRANE ESTATE, IPSWICH 978.356.4351

Join us for our second annual winter speaker

series. Visit WWW.CRANEESTATE.ORG for confirmed speakers, dates, and times.

Saturday, February 4 | 12NOON–2PM

Winter Wonderland Walk

APPLETON FARMS, IPSWICH/HAMILTON
978.356.5728

The Appleton family created wonderful trails through the Grass Rides and along the Great Pasture for our enjoyment in all seasons. With visits at four family memorials that formerly adorned Harvard's Gore Hall Library discover the Appleton family legacy of these landscapes. Meet at Highland Street parking area. *Please pre-register. Members: FREE. Nonmembers: Adult \$5.*

Friday, February 24 | 3–4:30PM

**So You Think It Would
Be Fun To Have A Cow?**

RECOMMENDED FOR FAMILIES

APPLETON FARMS, IPSWICH/HAMILTON 978.356.5728

When the snow covers our pastures, the Appleton dairy herd loafs around the barnyard where you can visit the cows and watch the afternoon milking. Directions sent upon registration. *Pre-registration required. Members: FREE. Nonmembers: \$10.*

Saturday, March 18 | 8–10AM

Marsh Meander

CRANE BEACH, THE CRANE ESTATE, IPSWICH
978.356.4351

Now a coastal treasure, the values of salt marshes have ebbed and flowed over the centuries. View shipbuilding ruins and a historic cranberry bog site that reveal bygone times. Meet at the Inn Gate at Castle Hill, parking at barn area. *Please pre-register. Members: FREE. Nonmembers: Adult \$5.*

SOUTHEAST REGION

POP EVENTS BELOW WITH*

Registration and Information Evening
at Hingham Public Library on Thursday,
January 5 from 6–8:30PM. For more
information call 781.740.4796.

Ongoing Winter Opportunity

The Cross-Country Skiing Club

WORLD'S END, HINGHAM 781.740.4796

Our rangers will introduce you to a new place, new people and a new way to enjoy the winter season. Program recommended for beginners. *Please pre-register. Members: FREE. Nonmembers: Admission to World's End.*

December 3 | 9AM–12NOON

Weather dependent: Call to confirm

World's End Grasslands Restoration

WORLD'S END, HINGHAM 781.740.4796

We need your help to maintain the
unique landscape of World's End.

Bring your work gloves, loppers and
dress for the season! *FREE admission to all.*



Friday, December 16 | 6–8PM

Full Moon Night Hike

SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS BIORESERVE,
FALL RIVER 508.679.2115

The forests of the Bioreserve may feel timeless, but in fact they are ever-changing. As the solstice approaches, get out and enjoy a moonlight walk to experience the changes that wintertime brings to the landscape of Copicut Woods. *Please pre-register. FREE to all.*

Saturdays in January and February | 9–11AM

Weather dependent: Call to confirm

Cross-Country Skiing

SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS BIORESERVE,
FALL RIVER 508.679.2115

Fourteen thousand acres of protected open space
provide plenty of room to stretch your legs.



Saturday, February 4 | 10AM–12NOON

Snow date: Sunday, February 5

Notable Trees and Shrubs for the Winter Landscape

LONG HILL, BEVERLY 978.921.1944

Winter's colors, textures, and forms can be seen in all their glory at Long Hill. Discover how a few simple additions to your garden can bring it to life in the winter. *Limited to 18 participants; please call ahead for reservations. Members: FREE. Nonmembers: \$5 per person.*

Miles of wide, flat trails make Copicut Woods the perfect place for x-country skiers of all ages and abilities. Discounted ski rentals available. *Please pre-register for a call before the trips. FREE to all.*

Ecosplorations After School Program*

Tuesdays, January 10 – February 7

3:30–5PM (ages 8-10)

Wednesdays, January 11 – February 8

3:30–5PM (ages 5-7)

TURKEY HILL, HINGHAM

Winter doesn't have to be a break from exploring! Join us for this unique after school experience where we sharpen our observation skills in order to uncover the history and ecology of our properties. *Please pre-register. Members: \$30. Nonmembers: \$45.*

Saturday, January 21 | 1–3PM

Animal Tracking

SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS BIORESERVE,
FALL RIVER 508.679.2115

Although the Bioreserve might at first seem deserted in winter, it is in fact teeming with life. Look closely with staff from the Buttonwood Park Zoo to learn the art of animal tracking. *Please pre-register. FREE to all.*

Sunday, February 5 | 1–3PM

Cedar Swamp Walk

SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS BIORESERVE,
FALL RIVER 508.679.2115

Once common in southeastern Massachusetts, Atlantic White Cedar swamps are now disappearing and in need of protection and restoration. Learn more about the importance of these beautiful trees and what we are doing to bring them back. *Please pre-register. FREE to all.*



Tuesday through Thursday, February 21, 22 & 23 | 9AM–12NOON (ages 6-9)

February Vacation Nature Program*

TURKEY HILL, HINGHAM

Vacation equals exploration! With the leaves gone and a fresh dusting of snow we can look at the land and who is living here in a whole new light. *Please pre-register. Members: \$60. Nonmembers: \$75.*

Saturday, March 4 | 10AM

Bread n' Jam Ski Race

NOTCHVIEW, WINDSOR 413.684.0148

The nineteenth annual "Bread n' Jam" race is a 10 Km classical style race with home-baked goods as prizes. Open to all. *Members: FREE. Nonmembers: Adult \$10; Child \$2.*



Saturday, February 4 | 10AM

Winter Trees of World's End

WORLD'S END, HINGHAM 781.740.4796

Unravel the mysteries of winter tree identification using only clues such as bark, buds, and tree shape. *Please pre-register. Members: FREE. Nonmembers: Admission to World's End.*

Saturday, February 18 | 9–11AM

Winter Adaptations

SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS BIORESERVE,
FALL RIVER 508.679.2115

The harsh and ever-changing conditions of winter present a challenge to plants and animals alike. Explore with us the amazing adaptations that help living things to survive the coldest months of the year. *Please pre-register. FREE to all.*

FOR EVENTS WITH*

Registration and Information Evening at Hingham Public Library on Thursday January 5 from 6–8:30PM. For more information call 781.740.4796.

WESTERN REGION

Going on now | 8AM–4:30PM

Ski Season Starts at Notchview

NOTCHVIEW, WINDSOR 413.684.0148

Notchview has everything you need for winter fun: 27 miles of trails (17 groomed and tracked), back country trails, two trail shelters, snowshoe rentals, the Budd Visitor Center, and even a loop to ski with your dog! Call for updated ski conditions or look for conditions on the web at WWW.XCSKIMASS.COM. *Members: FREE. Nonmembers: Adult \$10, Child \$2.*

Saturday December 10 | 12NOON–4PM

Notchview Christmas Tree Sale

NOTCHVIEW, WINDSOR 413.684.0148

Tree and ski! We have a good selection of 5' and 6' organically grown christmas trees for sale from our Hume Farm tract: fir, spruce, and Scots pine. If you can't make it on that day give us a call. \$20 each.

Saturday, January 14 | 7–8:30PM

Full Moon Family Walk*

WATER RIVER FARM, HINGHAM

The open, quiet, winter forest surrounding the farm is the perfect place for families to discover the sights and sounds of the season. Hot cocoa to follow. *Please pre-register. FREE to all.*

Saturday, January 7 | 10AM-3PM

Winter Trails Day

NOTCHVIEW, WINDSOR 413.684.0148

Ski free! As part of the "Winter Feels Good" campaign, snowshoes and trail passes are our treat. For a two-hour trial period, you can try out this healthy, easy, and enjoyable winter sport. Quantities of snowshoes are limited.

Members: FREE. Nonmembers: FREE for 2-hour limit.

Sunday, January 8 | 9AM-3PM

Ski Fest 2006

NOTCHVIEW, WINDSOR 413.684.0148

Take a free lesson early in the season to shake off the rust or improve your technique. We will offer both classical skiing and skating lessons, a wax clinic and fun activities. Ski rentals can be arranged. Members: FREE. Nonmembers: FREE lessons; trail pass: Adult, \$10; Child \$2.

Wednesday, January 11 | 7PM-9PM

Friday, February 10 | 7PM-9PM

Saturday, March 11 | 7PM-9PM

Moonlight Skiing at Notchview

NOTCHVIEW, WINDSOR 413.684.0148

This is a traditional ski event and a favorite at Notchview. After great moonlight skiing, enjoy cider, popcorn, and the good company of fellow skiers. Members: FREE. Nonmembers: Adult \$10, Child \$2.

Tuesday, February 14 | Morning

MIAA High School Championships

NOTCHVIEW, WINDSOR 413.684.0148

All Massachusetts high schools compete for the Championship - go Berkshire County! Be prepared for a big crowd if you come for regular skiing.

Dates to be determined

Notchview Race Series

(Will be cancelled in bad weather: please call ahead)

NOTCHVIEW, WINDSOR 413.684.0148

Our informal race series is being adopted by the Berkshire Trail Nordic Ski Club. Expect a mix of both classical and freestyle in these low-key races designed to allow for some excitement and provide a chance to keep the competitive juices flowing. Members: FREE. Nonmembers: Adult \$10, Child \$2.

Times by arrangement with Jean

Women's Nordic Ski Clinics

NOTCHVIEW, WINDSOR 413.684.0148

JEAN MANGAN 413.634.2123

A chance for women to improve their skills and fitness level in an encouraging environment, this program will feature videotaping of your skiing technique with follow-up assessment. Advanced beginner through intermediate. Limit of 8 women per clinic. Pre-registration required. Members: \$40. Nonmembers: \$50.

Saturday, February 18 and Sunday, February 19 Mornings

US Collegiate Ski Association Races

NOTCHVIEW, WINDSOR 413.684.0148

Northeastern Colleges including MIT, Clarkson, Cornell, and Army ski at Notchview. This is a small group and regular skiing is allowed.

Saturday, February 25 | 11AM-2PM

Snowshoe Trek and Track

LITTLE TOM RESERVATION, HOLYOKE

413.532.1631 X13

Traverse the hills of Little Tom on snowshoes while unraveling the clues wildlife leave behind in the winter landscape. Snowshoe rentals available at \$8/pair (thanks to Berkshire EMS) or bring your own. Call to rent snowshoes and to pre-register.



©SHEPHERD / THE CRANE WILDLIFE RES.

Still Time to Make Your Move! ANNUAL APPEAL 2005

EACH YEAR AT THIS TIME WE ASK YOU to make a contribution above and beyond your much appreciated membership dues. Your Annual Appeal contribution will help us continue to accelerate the pace of land protection, expand our educational programming, and sustain stewardship efforts at our 96 (and ever growing) network of reservations.

This year your gift is even more critical because it will be included in our *Landscapes & Landmarks* campaign thereby helping The Trustees meet The Kresge Foundation Challenge. Every contribution large or small brings us one major step closer to meeting that challenge, and receiving a \$1.5 million grant that will support our statewide conservation efforts.

And making your year-end gift is easy! You can use the Annual Appeal packet that was recently mailed to you, donate on-line at WWW.THETRUSTEES.ORG, or mail a check marked "Annual Appeal" to The Trustees of Reservations at 572 Essex Street, Beverly, MA 01915.

where the modern meets nature



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FIELD FARM



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Members enjoy a 10% discount on stays of two nights or more.
All proceeds benefit The Trustees' conservation work at Field Farm.

Special PLACES | WINTER 2005

Winter Welcome

By Brion O'Connor

BRYNNE, MY 5-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER, STUDIES THE aluminum-and-nylon contraptions in my hands, and looks at me, quizzically. "What are those, Daddy?" she asks, in a voice as pure as the 5-inch layer comforter of snow that fell outside our cottage the night before.

"They're snowshoes, honey," I reply. Brynne furrows her brow. I sense her concern. She understands immediately that these devices, which must resemble some medieval torture apparatus with all their buckles and strapping, are meant for her. That, of course, is exactly my plan.

I checked the forecast the day before, and learned that the season's first substantial snowfall was expected. Remnants of earlier dustings still swirled about our neighborhood, surviving because the mercury had plummeted in the past week. Those chilly temperatures left our local trails rock hard, with patches of ice and whispers of snowflakes mixing with the rattling of dead leaves. It is, oddly, one of my favorite times of year, because the stark trail conditions dissuade many outdoor enthusiasts from venturing to my favorite haunts, such as the twisting, boulder-lined routes of Ravenswood Park on the edge of Cape Ann in Gloucester. And I, in the spirit of Ravenswood's legendary hermit, naturalist Mason A. Walton, enjoy my solitude.

Like many Northeast hideaways, Ravenswood changes dramatically with the seasons. In the summer, when I'm as likely to be on my mountain bike as on foot, the park's dense canopy is an impervious shield from an overbearing sun. Come fall, with its brisk sea breezes and the oak, maple and birch trees exploding with colors, Ravenswood is a sensory delight. But winter brings a silence and a solace unmatched any other time of the year, the trees' bony branches, laced with icicles that dazzle in the unfettered sunlight, beckoning me.

Still, winter can be the most challenging season to coax a child into the woods, when everything to them looks so raw and dreary. Brynne loves external stimuli, whether it's squirrels scurrying among the tree limbs, or the wind whipping multi-colored leaves into a life-size diorama. But in winter, after the trees and animals have begun their seasonal slumber, and the birds have long since left for warmer climes, Brynne undergoes her own transformation. She becomes a creature of indoor comforts.



Undeterred, once I saw the weather report, I started rummaging around the basement for our snowshoes. A fresh blanket of white means a new landscape to explore. And Brynne, an early riser like her dad, is coming out with me. So while my wife and oldest child sleep, I bundle my youngest in her hooded snowsuit, despite her protests. We drive out to Ravenswood, Brynne with a long, grumpy face, and me being disingenuously animated. In the parking lot, I strap on the snowshoes. Brynne, resigned to her fate, starts plodding along, eventually discovering how efficient snowshoes can be in fresh fluff.

Finally, after numerous fits and starts, we reach my favorite granite overlook, with sweeping views of Gloucester Harbor. A heavy, opaque fog rises from the salt water, giving the panorama an ethereal feel. I soak it in for a moment, and then turn to my pint-size traveling companion. Brynne surveys the scene, her sparkling blue eyes wide like saucers, her mouth agape, her breath rising with the same misty quality, swirling around the blonde curls that peek out from under her hood. "Daddy," she says, breaking the pristine quiet, "It's so, so ... beautiful."

And I smile, knowing that next time I come here, Brynne will join me of her own free will, the pull of this breathtaking tableau enough to lure her back.

North Shore resident Brion O'Connor is a freelance writer and longtime member of The Trustees of Reservations.

Sledding

DEXTER DRUMLIN

George Hill Road, Lancaster ■ 978.840.4446

Glaciers formed this open hilltop with scenic views of the surrounding countryside — a favorite place for sledding. Thirty-eight acres, 50 vertical feet and a bountiful snow supply also make it a perfect place for testing your new snowshoes or a little cross-country skiing. Open year-round, daily, sunrise to sunset. **FREE**

Cross-country Skiing

NOTCHVIEW

Rt. 9, Windsor ■ 413.684.0148

Notchview is one of Massachusetts' premier Nordic cross-country skiing venues. From groomed tracks to open field touring, we have trails and adventures for skiers of all levels. And at 2,297 feet, snow conditions are among the best in the Berkshires. Snowshoes, restrooms, hot chocolate and a cozy stove are available at the visitor center. Early December — early April, open daily, 8AM — 4:30PM. Ski Day pass Members **FREE** Nonmembers \$10. Adult \$10, Child (6-12) \$3; after 2PM Adult \$7, Child \$0.

Animal Tracking

Still, snowy days are a perfect time for young nature detectives to search for signs of life in the winter woods — or in the dunes at Crane Beach. Look for tracks, droppings, gnawed twigs, scrapes, fur, and feathers — they provide clues to what kind of animals passed by, and maybe even what they were up to!

ELEANOR CABOT BRADLEY ESTATE

2468 Washington Street, Canton ■ 781.821.2977

An easy winter walk through open fields, woods, and gardens. Look for signs of deer, fox and turkeys, and listen for birds. Open year-round, daily, sunrise to sunset. **FREE**. Closest restroom & gas service station: across Route 93 (5 miles)

CRANE BEACH

Argilla Road, Ipswich ■ 978.356.4354

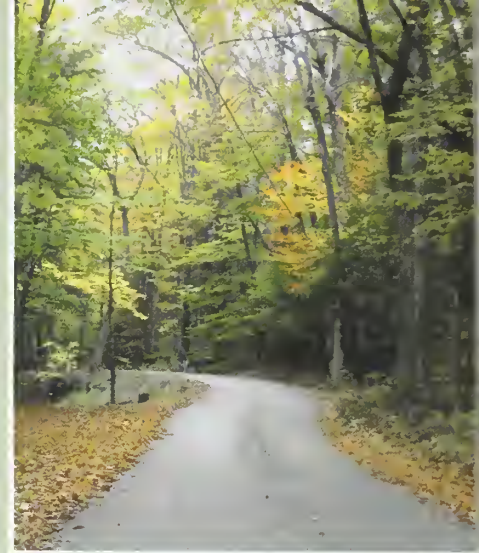
5.5 miles of trails traverse dunes and track the beachfront on both the Ipswich Bay and Essex River Estuary sides of the Castle Neck peninsula. Open year-round, daily, 8AM to sunset. Member car: \$2.50 Nonmembers car: \$7. Seasonal restroom.

Need Some Gear?

REI (www.REI.COM) rents snowshoes and skis at selected stores in Massachusetts. Be sure to call ahead, especially on snowy weekends, as they go fast.



Come out & PLAY!



LEFT: A map of roads in the Highlands, annotated by participants in Alexandra Dawson's workshop, "You're in the Driver's Seat" from this year's conference of The Trustees' Highland Communities Initiative (HCI). HCI is a land conservation program focused on the 38 rural towns between the Connecticut and Housatonic River valleys, a region criss-crossed by narrow country roads, many of which have been in use since the 17th century.

SAVING COUNTRY ROADS

by Alexandra Dawson

SO MUCH OF THE CHARACTER OF SUBURBAN AND COUNTRY settings depends upon the narrow, winding, tree-lined ways that define the New England landscape. It is curious, then, that we pay so little attention to the design of those roads — at least until they morph into broad expanses of treeless asphalt suggesting freeways. Zoning and site plan review, which often regulate minutiae of building design, seldom touch on roadways at all.

Part of this neglect comes from the blind eye with which we regard public infrastructure. Part comes from differences of opinion about what roads are for. But a lot of the problem arises from the Massachusetts Highway Department Design Manual which governs the whole design — corridor width, flatness, sight lines and design speed — of roads known as "arterials" and "collectors" upon which the state spends its funds. (Interstates and some of the larger state highways are governed by a federal manual.) Because communities want more state and federal road funding, many modest roads have been designated as collectors and subject to review under these standards. The manual shows a predilection for 12-foot lanes, wide shoulders and a design speed of 50MPH or more, all arguably hostile to country atmosphere and the natural environment.

The state manual is being rewritten as a "Project Development & Design Guide" to encourage local input and flexibility. Even so, most roads using state and federal money will end up being 30 feet wide and cleared of trees along the edges. Drivers may go faster but everything else is endangered, including aesthetic and historic values.

The Footprint Roads Program provides an exception to the design manual standards. Now in its second year, it approves funding for roads that are basically safe but need reconstruction and drainage improvement. Towns can have these roads rebuilt within the existing "footprint" and not changed in any major way. To qualify, the road must be a main street, pass by public lands or natural resources, or be designated as a "scenic road" under state law. It is hard to imagine any country road that does not meet one or more of these broad standards.

Some officials want to phase out the pilot program in favor of the new design manual. Other feel we need to keep it. Email us your thoughts at findyourplace@ttor.org. You can download a copy of the Footprint Roads Program application at WWW.MHD.STATE.MA.US/DOWNLOADS/FOOTPRINT/ROADS/GUIDELINES.PDF.

Alexandra Dawson is a land use attorney and long-time admirer of quiet country lanes.

LAND CONSERVATION

We Can't Do It Alone, Nor Do We Want To

We are inspired by the generosity
of our friends and neighbors.

COMPLETED CONSERVATION PROJECTS

MAGULLION, NATICK:

Frank and Sheila Magullion have donated a conservation restriction on a lovely 5.5-acre garden of specimen plantings, meadows, and forest off Pleasant Street, near Pegan Hill Reservation, across the street from Lookout Farm. The Magullions hope their hidden garden, created over forty years, may one day be opened to the public.

SIGNAL HILL, CANTON:

George and Nancy Bates have made a gift of land and endowment for a new reservation. The 117-acre property protects flood plain forest, rock outcrops, and more than a mile of frontage on the Neponset River, adjacent to an extensive network of land protected by the Commonwealth, including Fowl Meadow and the Blue Hills Reservation. It offers spectacular views of the Boston skyline to the north and Moose Hill in Sharon to the south. It will be opened as a Trustees' reservation within two years.

CHEEK, LONG HILL, BEVERLY



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First Middle Initial Last

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| conservation count | | ACREAGE PROTECTED |
|--------------------|---|----------------------|
| LAND OWNED | 96 reservations | 23,813 |
| LAND UNDER CR | 240 parcels | 15,471 |
| ASSISTS* | 104 projects | 15,435 |
| As of 9/30/05 |  TOTAL | 54,719 |

*Assists include land protected with or for The Trustees' partners as well as lands owned in fee by MLCT. This total may decline from time to time when certain MLCT properties are re-categorized as Trustees' properties or CRs.



And all was white...

William Cullen Bryant's boyhood home in Cummington lies under a blanket of snow during the long winter in the Berkshire foothills, offering the same majesty and mystery Bryant described almost two centuries ago. **by Ellice Gonzalez**

WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT WAS AS FAMOUS IN 19TH Century America as William Wordsworth was in England. Bryant was the first to describe the American landscape in Romantic terms. It was the Homestead's vistas and countryside that inspired his best known poetry. As a child, Bryant spent much of his time outdoors – helping with farm chores, playing in the old growth forest on the Rivulet, exploring the hills and valleys of western Massachusetts – and these activities are reflected in his poetry. When he returned to the Homestead in his later years, he continued this intimate relationship with the outdoors well into his eighties, typically hiking fifteen miles a day in the Berkshire foothills. From bees buzzing in the heat of a summer's day to the ice palaces of winter, Bryant reveled in the beauty of the ever-changing landscape. Throughout his life, Bryant used the images of seasonal change in his poetry as a metaphor for the cycle of human life.

The poem, "Winter Pieces", from which these excerpts are taken, was published in 1821 when Bryant was still living in western Massachusetts and practicing law. He was twenty-five years old, newly married, and already well known for "Thanatopsis" and other poems. He soon moved to New York City, eventually becoming the publisher and editor of the New York Evening Post for fifty years, gaining wealth and great prominence in public life. But it was the natural world of the Homestead and its surroundings that continued to inspire and revive him until his death in 1878.

Ellice Gonzalez is the Historic Site Administrator for the Bryant Homestead.

RIGHT: William Cullen Bryant (1794-1878) walked 15 miles a day, year-round, well into his 80s. His ruminations on the nature of nature earned him the nickname, "America's Wordsworth."

Winter Pieces

AN EXCERPT (1821)

...When shrieked

The bleak November winds, and smote the woods,
And the brown fields were herbless, and the shades,
That met above the merry rivulet,
Were spoiled, I sought, I loved them still; they seemed
Like old companions in adversity.
Still there was beauty in my walks; the brook,
Bordered with sparkling frost-work, was as gay
As with its fringe of summer flowers. Afar,
The village with its spires, the path of streams
And dim receding valleys, hid before
By interposing trees, lay visible
Through the bare grove, and my familiar haunts
Seemed new to me. Nor was I slow to come
Among them, when the clouds, from their still skirts,
Had shaken down on earth the feathery snow,
And all was white. ...



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FAMILY: ☐ Standard (\$60) ☐ Seniors/Students (\$50)

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Ms. Miss

| First | Middle Initial | Last |
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| Ms. Miss | | |

Address

City / Town State Zip Code

()
Daytime phone E-mail address

FROM (PLEASE PRINT):

Mr. Mrs.

Ms. Miss

| First | Middle Initial | Last |
|----------|----------------|------|
| Mr. Mrs. | | |
| Ms. Miss | | |

Address

City / Town State Zip Code

Daytime phone E-mail address

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to Recipient.

☐ Please send **renewal**
to me.

PLEASE CHECK ONE

☐ Please send **membership packet**
to Recipient.

☐ Please send **membership packet**
to me.

Please make checks payable to The Trustees of Reservations and return with this form to:

Membership Department • The Trustees of Reservations

572 Essex Street, Beverly, MA 01915

Don't forget to write your personal greeting (see above).

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